

Natural Resource Section Bulletin

“I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise, what is there to defend?”

Robert Redford

Greetings! This is the fifth edition of the EPB Natural Resource Section informational bulletin. Herein we hope you will find valuable, timely information that will fill in for the time between the quarterly RPEM/EPB meetings. The content will include new initiatives, updates on continuing issues, reminders, and useful information concerning the agencies that regulate our environmental requirements. Please take the time to read and comment on the information contained. And please pass this on to the folks in your areas. We will add anyone to the distribution list that you wish, just send Tom Boyce or Jiovanna Toppi the request and the list of folks.

WEEDS, NOXIOUS and OBNOXIOUS

Proposed General Permits for Discharges from the Application of Pesticides in Colorado

CDPHE's Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) is proposing a general permit for discharges from applications of pesticides to surface waters of the State. This state-level permit is modeled on a draft NPDES permit which EPA created in response to a 2009 decision that found that discharges from pesticides into U.S. waters were pollutants, and, therefore, will require a permit under the Clean Water Act as of April 9, 2011.

On March 3, 2011 EPA requested an extension to allow more time for pesticide operators to obtain permits for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters.

EPA is requesting that the deadline be extended from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011.



WQCD proposed to issue a general permit for activities in CO by March 11, 2011 but has delayed this because they are waiting to see if EPA's request for an extension is granted, or if related national legislation is passed that will remove the need for this permit. If neither of these events happen, WQCD intends to issue the permit by April 9, 2011.

As proposed, the permit will have: no annual fee, no reporting requirements and coverage will be automatic. According to WQCD, when (or if) they issue the pesticide permit; pesticide applicators will have automatic coverage if they operate per the permit conditions (which are essentially the same as

current practices). CDOT will need to send a letter notifying WQCD that it intends to comply with the permit. CDOT's Noxious Weed Coordinator, Jim Walker, will be handling this process.

Information and updates can be found here:
<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Bryan Roeder, Rick Willard or Jim Walker.

NOXIOUS WEED TRAINING CARDS



A limited number of noxious weed training cards are being printed and will soon be available. These are handy, pocket sized cards with photos and brief information about noxious weed management and identification. They are primarily intended for our maintenance staff with the goal of raising awareness of noxious weeds and providing an accessible resource for those interested. Contact Bryan Roeder for more information.

SLOW DOWN, ANIMAL CROSSING

It is field season. Since many of us will be out on the roads more, it's important to be aware of all the potential hazards out there, including animals. Here are a few tips that can help you to avoid animal vehicle collisions.

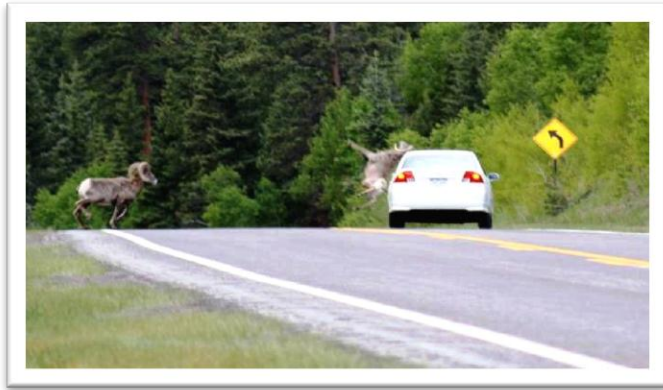
- Slow down.
- Deer Crossing signs really are there for a reason. They are only placed in locations that

have had at least five annual accidents per mile.



- Most animal collisions happen during good weather.
- Be extra aware around dawn and dusk. This is when wildlife activity is most frequent. Generally between 5-8 a.m. and 6-9 p.m.
- Accidents with deer and elk spike every October through December and May through June due to breeding season and migration. November tends to be especially high.
- Always scan the road and roadside ahead of you. This can provide significantly more reaction time.
- If you see one animal, there are probably more. Deer and elk usually move in groups.
- It is safer to use the brakes rather than swerving because you will have better control. Try to stay in your lane. Most of the worst injuries are caused by swerving off the road or into other cars/objects rather than the actual animal collision.
- At night, use high beams when there is no oncoming traffic. You can see wildlife sooner this way and will have more reaction time. Watch for eye shine in the distance.

- Watch for coyotes and other scavengers near other road kill animals.
- Dim your instrument lights.
- Clean off your headlights when gassing up.
- If you hit an animal, pull over and notify State Patrol. Dial *CSP from any cell phone.



WORST HIGHWAYS FOR ANIMAL-VEHICLE COLLISIONS IN COLORADO

Be extra aware if you will be travelling along these areas:

- US 160 and US 550 around Durango
- SH 182 between Glenwood Springs and Aspen
- SH 13 from Meeker to Wyoming
- US 36 between Boulder and Lyons
- I-70 at Floyd Hill
- I-25 north of Colorado Springs
- US 40 east of Steamboat Springs
- US 285 between C-470 and Conifer
- SH 115 south of Colorado Springs

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22ND



CHERRY CREEK CLEANUP
April 14th, 11 a.m. to noon

The Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability will host the spring Cherry Creek Cleanup Thursday, April 14th. All department employees are encouraged to donate their lunch hour to help clean up the creek. Please meet anytime from 11 a.m. to noon at the flagpole east of Building A. Cookies and beverages will be served. CDOT folks are requested to have their state id badge with them.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

Do you have a fear of public speaking? Can't quite get your point across at meetings? Toastmasters can help!

A chapter has been started here at CDOT and the group has been meeting regularly since March 16th. Meetings are held at headquarters and at the region 6 office on Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00.

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Rick Willard. More information about Toastmasters International can be found on their website at <http://www.toastmasters.org>